Student Vote

CANADA

2021 Campaign Guide

Thank you

Thank you for engaging your students in the 2021 federal election.

We know the beginning of the school year is a busy time, and we appreciate the time you are dedicating to the program.

It's worth it. Numerous independent evaluations have confirmed that Student Vote helps foster the characteristics of young voters, including enhanced civic literacy, increased political interest and discussion, and improved attitudes towards democratic participation.

Please do not worry about covering all of the content or having less time than usual. Consider using the election as a starting point in your curriculum unit and delve into more topics after the election.

As always, have fun and make it a memorable experience for your students.

We'd love to see photos or videos of Student Vote in action at your school. Please share them with us through email (hello@civix.ca) or social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) using the hashtag #StudentVoteCanada.

Have a great election!

The CIVIX team

Overview

This guide has been produced to help you navigate all of the resources and tools for Student Vote Canada. We hope you find it useful when planning your activities.

Considerations:

- The *Learning Resources* booklet resource has been developed for a variety of grades and subjects. Please select or modify the activities in a way that is appropriate for your class and the time available. Refer to the **two-lesson** and **four-lesson pathways** on pages 7-8 for suggestions on how to condense the learning.

- You will find different file formats for the slide decks (Google Slides, PowerPoint and variations in Pear Deck) and student activities (PDF, Word, Google Forms and/or Microsoft Forms) on the program website under *Classroom Resources*.

- There are a variety of short videos you can use to review key concepts related to government, democracy and federal elections. These videos are posted on the project website and can be used as part of the lessons or used as stand alone resources. An overview of the videos can be found on page 5.

- Check out the fun and interactive tools on page 6, which are geared towards maximizing the time you have to prepare.

- You can use the program as a way to engage students through social and emotional learning strategies (SEL) at a time when students are experiencing stress and significant challenges around their mental and physical well-being as a result of this pandemic.

- Recognize and acknowledge that people have different opinions and biases, and encourage respectful dialogue. Consider establishing a class contract at the beginning of the year ensure a safe and caring classroom environment, such as attentive listening, appreciation/no put downs and mutual respect.

- Where possible, empower your students with the roles and responsibilities of coordinating Student Vote Day. Refer to the *Election Manual* for guidelines and suggestions in planning your vote.

- Due to the short timeline, schools may vote on any day, including September 20 (election day).

All of the lesson plans, handouts, student activities, slide decks, videos and election-related support tools can be found on the project website: studentvote.ca/canada
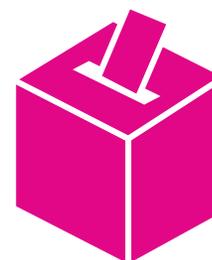
Elementary Lessons

The lessons are supported by videos, slide decks (in Google Slides and PowerPoint), and student activities in various formats, including Word, Google Forms and Microsoft Forms. Refer to the *Lesson Pathways* on page 7 for options to condense the activities.

LESSON	OVERVIEW
1: DEMOCRACY AND VOTING	Students review the idea of democracy and elections, and practice voting through a mock vote. Next, students learn about the upcoming federal election and the Student Vote program, and reflect on what they want to learn before casting their ballot.
2: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	Students discuss the rights they have at school, before exploring the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Afterwards, students reflect on the responsibilities that come with our rights and create a poster, pamphlet or video to remind adults about their right and responsibility to vote in the upcoming election.
3: GOVERNMENTS IN CANADA	Students explore the roles and responsibilities within the levels of government in Canada through a variety of multi-media tools and activities. Students analyze how government services affect them and create a visual diary to show specific ways that government influences their daily lives.
4: INFORMED CITIZENSHIP	Students experience the relationship between the information we consume and the decisions we make through an interactive activity (*Feed for Thought: Election Edition*). Before participating in a mock local election, students learn about the candidates and issues from one of two polarized social media feeds. In the debrief, students discuss how what they read may have influenced their decision. Afterwards, students learn about how the internet has changed the way we consume and share information.
5: POLITICAL PARTIES	Students are introduced to the idea that people have different political views about issues in society. After reviewing the role of political parties, students work in groups to research one of Canada's political parties and present their findings to the class. Afterwards, students determine which party they feel most aligned with.
6: CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATIONS	Students dissect and analyze various political party communications or advertisements. Afterwards, students evaluate the strengths and limitations of each party's campaign strategy.
7: MY CANDIDATES	Students discuss the role of elected representatives and the qualities they want to see in their Member of Parliament. After learning about our voting system, students develop questions they want to ask the candidates or to guide their research into the candidates. Students reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates, and their own priorities that will shape their voting decision.
8: POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS	Students analyze the results of the Student Vote Canada program and the federal general election. Afterwards, students have the opportunity to reflect on the learning experience, campaign events and the eventual outcome.

Intermediate/Secondary Lessons

The lessons are supported by videos, slide decks (in Google Slides and PowerPoint), and student activities in various formats, including Word, Google Forms and Microsoft Forms. Refer to the *Lesson Pathways* on page 8 for options to condense the activities.

| LESSON	OVERVIEW
1: DEMOCRACY	Students explore the principles of democracy. Next, they review voter turnout statistics in federal elections, and analyze the impact of these results on our politics. Afterwards, students discuss the upcoming election and the Student Vote Canada program, and what they want to learn from the experience.
2: LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT	Students compare the different levels of government, including leadership roles, elected officials and the division of responsibilities. Afterwards, students create a digital presentation using images or articles and captions, which demonstrates how government affects their lives.
3: INFORMED CITIZENSHIP	Students experience the relationship between the information we consume and the decisions we make through an interactive activity (*Feed for Thought*). Before participating in a mock local election, students learn about the candidates and issues from one of two polarized social media feeds. In the debrief, students discuss how what they read may have influenced their decision. Afterwards, students learn about how the internet has changed the way we consume and share information.
4: THE FEDERAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE	Students are introduced to political issues and the political spectrum. After learning about Canadian political parties, students participate in an online political spectrum survey (*Vote Compass: Canada Youth Edition*) to better understand the federal political landscape and which party they might be most closely aligned with.
5: MY CANDIDATES	Students become familiar with federal elections in Canada and how to become an informed voter. After learning about the electoral process, they work in groups to research the candidates or parties running in the current election. Next, students analyze the choices and evaluate who they support and why.
6: THE LEADERS' DEBATE	Students learn about effective debating skills, as well as faulty arguments, before analyzing the leaders' debate. Afterwards, students discuss the importance of debate in democracy and respectful discourse.
7: THE VOTING PROCESS	Students review essential information about voter eligibility and how people vote in federal elections. Afterwards, students discuss the barriers some face to electoral participation. In the final activity, students create a pitch about why voting matters.
8: POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS	Students examine the results of the Student Vote Canada program and the federal election. Afterwards, students analyze the campaign promises made by the newly elected government and assess what these actions will mean for Canadians across the country.

Videos
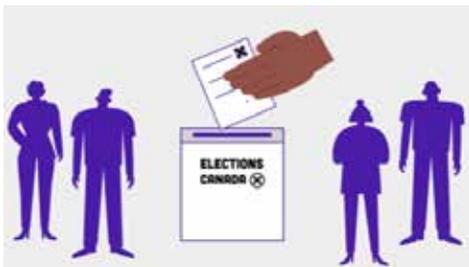
VOTING IN A DEMOCRACY

In a democracy, we choose people to represent us in government and make decisions about our future. Voting is your way to have a voice in our democracy.

GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY

What are the different types of government that exist around the world, and how do they compare? What type of government do we have in Canada?
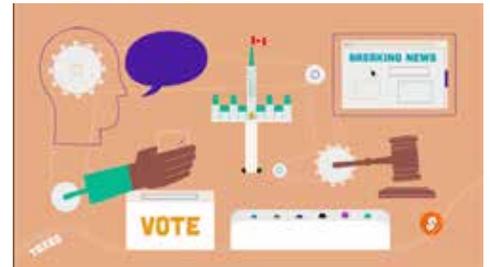
DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

There are several guiding principles that act as the foundation for democracy: fundamental freedoms, free and fair elections, accountability and transparency, the rule of law and citizen participation.

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

In Canada, we have several different levels of government. What is each level responsible for, and what is the title of the leader and elected representative for each?

BEHIND THE SCREENS – WHO DECIDES WHAT I SEE ONLINE?

How do algorithms work, and what are filter bubbles? Canadian media expert Taylor Owen explores the business model of online platforms and the consequences for democracy when information is personalized to us.

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties are made up of people who share similar views about society and government. The best way for a political party to work towards its goals is to win an election and lead the government.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

How does the election process work at the federal level? After the votes are cast, how do the election results determine the next government?

LOGICAL FALLICIES

Strawman, false dilemma and slippery slope are all types of faulty arguments. They may sound convincing in the moment, but if you stop and examine it, it does not stand up to the test of logic.

THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

What is the political spectrum? This video reviews the concept of the political spectrum and different ideological positions.

Interactive Tools

Through **Feed for Thought: Election Edition**, students experience the relationship between the information we consume and the decisions we make. Before participating in a mock local election, students learn about the candidates and issues from one of two polarized social media feeds. Afterwards, students discuss how what they read may have influenced their vote. It's only after casting their ballots when they realize they did not all see the same information.

newsliteracy.ca

Vote Compass: Canada Youth Edition is an interactive tool to help students familiarize themselves with Canadian political issues and ideological positions, and find out where they fit on the political spectrum. The survey includes 30 questions with background information and definitions of key terms. At the end, students can compare their position to the voters of Canadian political parties.

youth.votecompass.com/can

The **Pollenize** website outlines the policies and promises made by parties on 13 election issues in a digestible and engaging format. You can review the summaries by party or compare the parties on a single issue. Use this tool to help your students prepare for Student Vote Day!

pollenize.org/canada

The **Party Leader Q&A** videos are a great way to compare and contrast the leaders and their priorities. Canadian students were invited to submit questions to the federal party leaders. Seven questions were selected and shared with the political parties represented in the House of Commons. All video responses will be posted on the project website once received.

studentvote.ca/canada/leaders

Elementary Lesson Pathways

2 LESSON PATHWAY

1
- Lesson 1: Democracy and Voting – Activities
- Lesson 1: Democracy and Voting – Consolidation

2
- Watch "Introduction to politics and political parties" video
- Watch the "Federal Elections" video
- Find out your riding and candidates running for election (via Elections Canada's website)
- Watch the *Party Leader Q&A* videos, select topics
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Consolidation

4 LESSON PATHWAY

1
- Lesson 1: Democracy and Voting – Starter
- Lesson 1: Democracy and Voting – Activities
- Lesson 1: Democracy and Voting – Consolidation

2
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Starter
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Activities, Step 1-2
- Watch the "Federal Elections" video
- Find out your riding and candidates running for election (via Elections Canada's website)
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Activities, Step 3

3
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Activities, Step 3-4

4
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Activities, Step 5
- Watch the *Party Leader Q&A* videos, select topics
- Lesson 5: Political Parties – Consolidation

Secondary Lesson Pathways

2 LESSON PATHWAY

1
- Introduce the election and the Student Vote program
- Watch the "Student Vote Canada 2019" video
- Lesson 4: The Federal Political Landscape — Activities (*Vote Compass: Canada Youth Edition*)
- Lesson 4: The Federal Political Landscape — Consolidation

2
- Lesson 5: My Candidates — Activities (rely on *Pollenize*)
- Watch the *Party Leader Q&A* videos, select topics
- Lesson 5: My Candidates — Consolidation

4 LESSON PATHWAY

1
- Lesson 1 (Democracy) – Starter
- Lesson 1 (Democracy) – Activities
- Lesson 1 (Democracy) – Consolidation

2
- Watch the "Levels of Government" video
- Lesson 4: The Federal Political Landscape — Activities (*Vote Compass: Canada Youth Edition*)
- Lesson 4: The Federal Political Landscape — Consolidation

3
- Lesson 5: My Candidates — Starter
- Lesson 5: My Candidates — Activities (rely on *Pollenize*)
- Lesson 5: My Candidates — Consolidation

4
- Lesson 7: The Voting Process – Starter
- Lesson 7: The Voting Process – Activities 1-2
- Watch the *Party Leader Q&A* videos
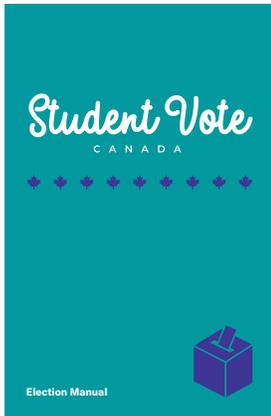- Assign the Party Leader video assignment (found on the *Party Leader Q&A* webpage)

Student Vote Day

You can choose any day to hold your Student Vote Day, including September 20.

Inside the **Election Manual** you will find:
- Descriptions of different possible voting methods
- Sample layout of a polling station
- Summary of election worker roles
- Requirements for the voting process
- Examples of properly marked ballots
- Examples of rejected ballots
- Information about reporting your results

studentvote.ca/canada/student-vote-day

Important reminders:

- Your ballots will be shipped in a second package after September 8.

- Please keep the results of your vote confidential until the polls close in your region.

- To be included in the preliminary results shared on election night, please submit your school's results by **5pm local time on September 20**. Results received the deadline will be added the next day.

- Your personalized reporting information (Statement of the Poll) will be sent with your ballots and emailed to you in lead up to the election.

National Office: 1.866.488.8775 | hello@civix.ca
Quebec Office: 1.833.503.3366 | info@civix.quebec

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